

October 21, 2001



Robert L. Stephenson II, M.P.H.
Director, Division of Workplace Programs, CSAP
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockwall II, Suite 815
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Department of Health and Human Services
Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug
Testing Programs
FR Doc. 01-20945 <<HHS NPRM --Comments.doc>>

My name is N.B. Varlotta. I am a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines. I wholly support the ALPA comments in regard to the mandatory guidelines for workplace drug testing programs.

In January 1999, due to low creatinine and specific gravity readings, I was falsely accused of substituting my drug screen sample. I am completely innocent and I do not use illegal drugs. I immediately provided seven inches of my hair and an additional sample low in creatinine and specific gravity (under direct observation) and provided a letter from my physician. None of this evidence was considered and I was terminated from my job and unblemished career of nearly twenty years. In February 2001, through my own perseverance and the intervention of ALPA, I was returned to duty after two torturous years of being falsely accused.

The nightmare of the false accusation, my termination, and the continuing struggle to prove my innocence is something no person should have to experience. Unfortunately, the possibility exists that I will have to relive the same nightmare. Since my January 1999 drug test, I have consistently (over a dozen tests to date) recorded low levels of creatinine and specific gravity, both in DOT tests and independent tests (under direct observation). It is the DOT's opinion that no human can fall below these cut-offs, yet, given my physiology and my recorded levels, the likelihood of being accused of being non-human again is very real to me.

The validity testing as proposed will continue to allow innocents to be accused and careers and lives to be destroyed.

Respectfully,

N.B. Varlotta
230 Prospect Street #25
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 454-1357